



CONTENTS

Editorial

- 1 UNOCI in action
- 2 Short news
- 3 Sensitisation
- 4 Peace messages
- 5 post crisis situation
- 6 Portrait
- 7 Image of the week
- 8 What's new on ONUCI FM...

Editorial

In a bid to make a firsthand assessment of the security and humanitarian situation, the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders led a powerful delegation on a mission to the west of the country which came on the heels of a similar mission to the Zanzan region. This overall view of the situation in the field coupled with his constant meetings with the political leaders of the country would enable the Special Representative make an exhaustive presentation on 18 July to the UN Security Council which has reaffirmed the importance that UNOCI should place on the protection of the population with respect to human rights, the restoration of state authority and national reconciliation. There are favourable prospects for the resumption of political dialogue that should provide the occasion to dwell on the real challenges facing a final, lasting and especially an inclusive resolution of the crisis. The United Nations is called upon to play its role, by elaborating

grassroots strategies necessary for the restoration of the still fragile confidence among the citizens. Security questions still have pride of place as they determine the free movement of people and goods and the resumption of economic and development activities. The Ivorian people who were severely affected by the crisis need to be reassured in order to live in a normal and peaceful environment. Efforts towards mutual acceptance must be translated into concrete acts in order for the country to write a new page in its history. But such should be done at its own pace so as not to skip the crucial stages of the process. As Bert Koenders says: "national reconciliation is easier said than done; it has to do with how people behave towards one another." The will is there, the initiatives are many; it only suffices to find a common ground that would serve to speed up the various processes already in motion.

1 UNOCI in action

- UNOCI's Chief visits the west of the country



The Special Representative of UN Secretary-general for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders paid a 2-day visit to the western region of the country close to the border with Liberia on the 6 and 7 of July. He was at the head of a powerful delegation comprising his deputy, Mr. Arnauld Akodjenou who is in charge of political affairs, the UNOCI Force Commander, General Muhanad Iqbal Asi, the Head of the Police Component, Commissioner Jean Marie Bourry, as well as the representative of the UN Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Carlos Geha. The delegation visited the towns of Tabou, Grabo, Guiglo, Tai and Para to take stock of the security and humanitarian situation and to discuss with local administrative authorities and the

active forces of the region including displaced persons on efforts towards national reconciliation. Mr. Koenders also met with UN staff in the field to discuss their work in the zone. This visit comes one month after a deadly attack on 8 June in Para in which seven UNOCI peace keepers, one republican soldier and at least 10 Ivorian civilians were killed. The UN and the Ivorian government have opened separate investigations into the killings. At Tabou, Grabo, Guiglo, Tai and Para both the authorities and the population thanked UNOCI for all the efforts it is making to reinforce the protection of the civilian population, assist Ivorian security forces and in a broader sense, for its efforts towards the restoration of state authority and economic recovery.

- Special Representative meets President of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission



The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders has reaffirmed UNOCI's support for the activities of the national Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation (CDTR). Mr. Koenders was speaking on 10 July after meeting with the CDTR President Charles Konan Banny at the latter's residence in Abidjan. "The Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation is moving ahead with its reconciliation work which is very crucial for the future of the country. We support the activities of the commission," Mr. Koenders said. He explained that UNOCI support is at two levels: To reinforce its military presence in order to reassure and protect the civilian population and the second is to strengthen the citizens' capacity to deal with the problem of land ownership which has remained a real problem in the west of the country. All the same, the ground work for social cohesion and

national reconciliation, according to the Special Representative, has to be the responsibility of opinion leaders, youths, women and nongovernmental organizations. On his part, the CDTR President declared that reconciliation was an absolute necessity. "There will be no maximum effect of the reconstruction policy if Ivorians do not come together and reconcile their differences," Mr. Banny pointed out. According to him, the minds of the people, for this reason, must be disarmed and Ivorians must surpass themselves. "Our ability to surpass ourselves will prove the love we have for our nation," he declared.



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- **UNOCI and High Commission for Refugees organize relocation of IDPs to Nahibly**



Internally displaced persons who had been taking refuge in the Catholic Mission in Duekoue were relocated on 10 July 2012 to an IDP camp in Nahibly, a district in Duekoue, with the assistance of the High Commission for Refugees and under the watchful eye of UNOCI's Moroccan contingent and UNPOL. Their departure from the Catholic Mission comes against a background of a gradual normalization of the security situation and the wish of the Catholic Mission to regain full control

of its premises in order to carry out its normal pastoral activities. It would be recalled that at the height of the post electoral crisis in 2011, thousands of people fled their homes and villages to find refuge at the Catholic Mission. The Nahibly camp for displaced persons was equipped with 1270 tents for 992 household numbering 4501 persons before the arrival of this latest batch from the Catholic Mission.

2 Short news...

Activities of UNOCI Military Command

Within the framework of cooperation with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), a coordination meeting on the frontier situation was held in Liberia on 11 July and another one envisaged for the 25th instant with the aim of sharing information and coordinating action on both sides of the border.

Operational activities

Land and air patrols were conducted by UNOCI forces both night and day with intensity. A total of 1561 patrols were recorded in the week just ended. The patrols which have been more intensive in the west of

the country are aimed at making a show of presence and UNOCI's capacity to deal with any threat against the population and their property, guarantee the free movement of persons and goods. These operations are conducted in coordination with Ivorian security forces, the civil, religious and traditional authorities of Cote d'Ivoire. Other agencies of the UN are also making their contribution to the process.

Humanitarian activities

The UN military provided free medical consultations and treatment to 2698 patients during the week just ended throughout the national territory and distributed 49,000 litres of drinking water to the needy.

3 Sensitisation :

- **Bouabli committed to build peace and security by fighting against rumours**



UNOCI's grassroots campaign for social cohesion and national reconciliation dubbed <ONU CI Tour> was in Bouabli in the sub Prefecture of Duekoue on Tuesday 10 July. "I am pleased with your visit to my village and the message I have just heard. This initiative reassures us and will contribute to the reinforcement of social cohesion in this village which has been gripped by insecurity and rumours of impending attacks," Mr. Gninion Kalaffe, traditional chief of Bouabli declared. "We are willing to follow the path of peace and reconciliation but this has to pass through the disarmament of all those in illegal possession of weapons." As for Mr. Noraogo Soumaila, head of the Burkinabe community in Bouabli, he welcomed the UNOCI initiative to sensitize the population about peace and social cohesion. "We foreign settlers must respect our hosts. We have understood that. And that's why in this village, when a problem arises, we go to the village chief to find a solution," he acknowledged.

- **Gagnoa elites and opinion leaders promise to adopt peace initiatives**

One month after the holding of United Nations Days (UN Days) organized by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Gagnoa, the elites and opinion leaders of the area have decided to set up a contact group. This decision is an outcome of the forum organised by UNOCI from 29 to 30 May 2012 in which it was decided to create a formal and broad based meeting aimed at sensitizing the population on democratic culture, tolerance and the acceptance of differences. On Friday 6 July, the elites and opinion leaders set up the contact group and a document spelling out the objectives, composition and functioning modalities of the group was handed to the Prefect of Goh and to UNOCI during a ceremony held at the Gagnoa Prefecture. The Member of Parliament of the area, Louis- Andre Dakoury Tabley who led the delegation of elites and who was elected president of the contact group declared that the group had been created for peace and development. The Prefect lauded the initiative and did not fail to pay

homage to UNOCI for having given the impetus for the move.



- **Army officers, sub officers and regional Prefects trained on human rights and international humanitarian law**



A seminar on capacity building on human rights and international humanitarian law for some 100 officers, sub officers and the regional Prefects of Gbeke and Hambol opened in Bouake on 10 July 2012. The seminar, organized by the Ivorian Ministry of Human Rights and Public Freedoms in partnership with UNOCI and some agencies of the UN system including the UN Population Fund, the High commission for Refugees and

the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, was aimed at reinforcing the capacity of participants in matters related to human rights and the respect of rules governing conflict situations. At the opening ceremony, the representative of the Prefect of Gbeke region, Colonel Sahore Kouadio, Commander of the 3rd Military region and Dr. Ane of the Population Fund who spoke on behalf of the partners, all welcomed the initiative and expressed the wish for it to be replicated in other regions of the country. Colonel Sahore said "international humanitarian law would help to check the aggressiveness inherent in the training of military men." Several talks were delivered followed by discussions on the rules on the maintenance of law and order and traffic control. Humanitarian action, the coordination of civilian-military operations and the protection of displaced persons were also among the topics to be studied during the 3-day seminar. At the end of the different training sessions scheduled to hold in Abidjan, San Pedro, Daloa, Man, Guiglo, Duekoue and Tai, a follow up network would be put in place to ensure that an improvement in behavior would take place and the lessons of the training are being applied in the field.

4 *Peace messages*

Bert Koenders, RSSG (during his visit to the western part of the country)

« There is no other alternative to reconciliation and living together. Reconciliation is a process that takes time. It is in your hands. We cannot work in your place. Yet we are here to help you and you can count on our support. We are here to help you create a peaceful environment»

Koffi Koffi Paul, Minister Delegate for Defense (during the ceremony of the rehabilitation of Tiébissou police station)

«During this period, our mission is to reinforce security, having a renovated and equipped police station like this one in Tie-

bissou would enable the staff to work in good condition with UNOCI.»

Yasmina Ouégnin, Cocody member of parliament (seminar for the reinforcement of the capacities of several youth movements and associations of Cote d'Ivoire)

«A new student spirit is emerging. That spirit has decided give up intentional violence to embrace the ideals of reconciliation and progress. This is the kind of students all of us are eager to see in the lecture halls and at students' halls of residence as we get closer to the reopening of the citadel of learning.»

5 *Post crisis situation*

The crisis resolution in Cote d'Ivoire requires the contribution of all the components of society, all the sectors of activities as well as the different actors, national and international partners. This edition of UNOCI WEEKLY focuses on arms collection and destruction operations.

On the occasion of the international day for the destruction of arms on Thursday 12 July, a weapons destruction operation was organized by UNOCI, in collaboration with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the National Commission for the fight against the proliferation of small illicit arms (COMNAT-ALPC) at the camp of the Mission's Togolese Battalion (TOGOBATT) in the Riviera neighbourhood of Abidjan. Some 650 light weapons were destroyed during the ceremony which was attended by the Ivorian Interior Minister, Hamed Bakayoko. The operation was a culmination of the voluntary arms collection exercise begun in June 2011 and illus-

trated once again that the circulation of illicit arms in the country remains a real cause for concern which affects the security situation. It would be recalled that since June 2011, UNOCI and COMNAT set out to collect and store arms handed in by ex-combatants in several districts of the country. Until now, 1857 weapons have been collected and stored in different UN military bases. The urgent need to find rapid and lasting solutions related to security reforms and the improvement of the general environment that would facilitate the re-launch of economic activities and development has become more than ever before a priority area for government intervention.

6 *Portrait : Lt. Colonel Claco Montcho Felicien*

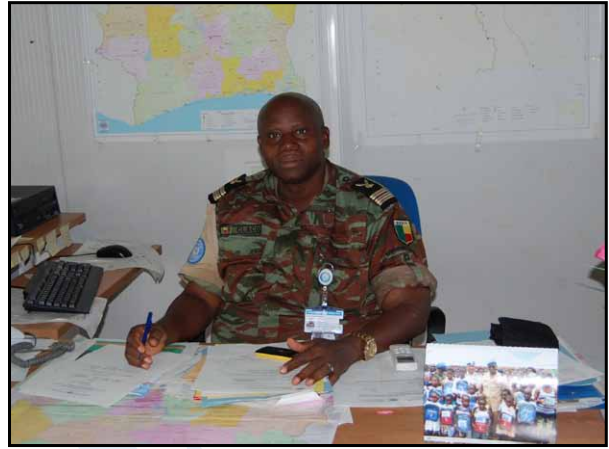
« A fighter bomber pilot converted to civilian-military action »

Placed at the head of civilian-military action in Sector West of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, this war plane pilot of the Benin Army had never hoped to give up his cockpit for humanitarian activities. But then...it happened. After leaving the Lycee Ouidah (high school) in Benin in 1979, the young Claco Felicien first thought of registering at the university but changed

his mind and opted for the air force. In 1980 he sat for the admission test and passed. He flew that same year to Russia, precisely at the Krassnadov air force school where he spent four years and specialized in piloting fighter planes. On his return home in 1984 he joined the air force where he occupied several posts of responsibility. In 2008, Lt. Colonel took a different direction in

his career by joining the UN as a military observer in the Congo. This lasted one year. In 2011, he joined UNOCI in a civilian-military capacity in Sector West. His duties consisted in providing security to the civilian population, protecting and reassuring them. "Within the framework of our duties, we conduct daily patrols in difficult zones. That's not all. We also renovate and rehabilitate schools and dispensaries that were destroyed or damaged during the crisis, repair village water pumps and provide drinking water for the needy as well as grading of earth roads such as we are doing at present in Tai," he explained. After 15 months of good and loyal services on Ivorian soil, Colonel Claco has six months to go before rounding up his tour of duty. Before he leaves, he has best wishes for Ivorians. "I strongly wish Ivorians can forgive one another. To forgive is not to forget. However it is in forgiving that Cote d'Ivoire can find a lasting peace. This 56-year-old pilot, married and father of five, says he is happy to have been able to make a modest

contribution at his level to the gradual return of peace to Cote d'Ivoire.



7 Image of the week



8 *Sur ONUCI FM ...*

ONU CI FM, whose first objective is to inform and guide Ivorians toward peace and national reconciliation offers you a complete News edition at 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 am and 6:00 pm and news briefs from 9:00 am. From Monday to Friday on ONU CI FM you will have the 7-12, your program of entertainment and information coming to you live.. The radio of peace invites you to follow reports and magazines on culture, sport and health. This week we invite you to follow the following reports :

- On Monday July 16 at 7h: 40, UNOCI FM ACTION will present a report on the activities of the cooperatives of rubber farmers of Bonoua. A fashion designer will tell us about his career.

On Tuesday, at 7h: 40 UNOCI FM REPORT will talk about the lack of public rest rooms in Abidjan. At 11h: 10, UNDERSTAND RURAL PROPERTY will explain the rights and the duties of the holder of a land certificate or land titles.

On Wednesday, the radio of peace will report on the international day of Nelson Mandela. At 7h: 40 UNOCI FM REPORT will invite you to discover the Charles Bieth center for artistic painting. At 2:30 pm ESPACE ENFANT will offer you a variety program for children. At 3:30 pm, REGGAETIME will give you the latest on reggae music.

On Thursday at 7h: 40, UNOCI FM ACTION will present you the Association of dynamic women who are fighting against HIV (AFDYL). At 9:10 am, with HISTOIRE D'ICI,

you will travel through time and examine the history of Côte d'Ivoire, the relations between peoples of Cote d'Ivoire and the relation between Ivorian people and peoples of the sub region countries.

On Friday you will share with us, the daily life of a widow, mother of six, and owner of a fish shop. At 8:00 pm in CALIENTE you will have the best of Latino music

On Saturdays from 7h: 00 to noon and on Sundays from 8h:00 to 12:00 , follow SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT YOUR HOME with various programme slots to make your week end enjoyable. ZIK CULTURE will immerse you in a broad cultural universe. At 7:00 pm, DESTINATION MUSIC will review the current news on music.

On Sunday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm SUNDAY SPORT will make a review of Ivorian, African and international sport news. At 5:00 pm, WITHOUT BORDER your travel magazine will help you discover the touristic sites, gastronomy, music and culture of a country.

Security Council Resolution 1820

SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Together, let us say **NO!**
to the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence

ONU CI FM's FREQUENCIES

ABENGOUROU 94.7 • ABIDJAN 96.0 • ADZOPE 96.0 • BANGOLO 91.1 • BONDOUKOU 100.1 • BOUAKÉ 95.3 • BOUNA 102.8
BOUNDIALI 90.0 • DABAKALA 93.9 DALOA 91.4 • DANANÉ 97.6 DAOUKRO 94.7 • DUEKOUÉ 91.1
FERKESSEDOUGOU • 104.4 • GAGNOA 91.4 • GUIGLO 93.7 • KORHOGO 95.3 MAN 95.3 • ODIENNÉ 101.1 • SAN-PEDRO 106.3
SEGUELA 101.8 TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93.7 • YAMOOUSSOUKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

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